[6th November 1952

Construction of a bridge across the Godavari river at Alamuru (East Godavari).

* 85 *Q.*—SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether tenders called for, for the construction of a bridge across the Godavari river at Alamuru (East Godavari) have been cancelled;

(*b*) if so, the reasons why; and

(*c*) the cost of the proposed construction and the contribution of the Government of India towards it?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The amounts quoted by the tenderers were far in excess of the estimate rates for the bridge. The alternative designs offered were also not acceptable. The Government of India have since revised the design and directed the call of fresh tenders for the revised design.

" (*c*) The estimated cost of the proposed bridge is Rs. 103·53 lakhs. When the cost of the two bridges across the Gowtami and the Vasishta (with the diversion road) was estimated at Rs. 140 lakhs, the Government of India had agreed to a contribution of Rs. 105 lakhs. Now that the Gowtami bridge alone is estimated to cost Rs. 103·53 lakhs the Government of India have been requested to increase their contribution correspondingly."

SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO :—" Sir, is it a fact that the Government of Madras originally opposed the scheme with a view to have a bridge across the Godavari between Kovvur and Rajahmundry by the side of the existing railway bridge, at a lower cost? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Notice, Sir."

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR :—" May I know, Sir, if the scrutiny of the estimates was done by the Public Works Department when the Chief Engineer for the Highways is in charge of the whole works and, if so, why? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Sir, I submit that the Government could take the advice of any engineer they like and there is nothing like consulting a P.W.D. Engineer, a Highways Engineer or an Electrical Engineer only."

SRI T. N. VENKATASUBBA REDDI :—" Sir, may I know from the Government what is their policy in regard to priority in the construction of bridges as I see that many rivers where water does not flow even once in two or three years have been provided with bridges and while perennial rivers have not been provided with bridges? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I want notice, Sir."